

PM: COVID-19 STILL A REAL THREAT

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'Let Aidiladha serve as a guide for Muslims on how to face challenges posed by pandemic'

KUALA LUMPUR

EVEN as Muslims nationwide celebrate Hari Raya Aidiladha, the people should bear in mind that the Covid-19 virus still poses a very real threat, says Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Speaking in a televised address yesterday in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha, the prime minister said Aidiladha should serve as a guide for Muslims in facing the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Aidiladha, he noted, is celebrated by Muslims nationwide in the spirit of repentance and carries significant meaning. He said the tales of the sacrifices of Prophet Ibrahim and his son, the Prophet Ismail, serve as shining examples to Muslims in facing daily challenges.

"Aidiladha this year reminds us of the meaning of patience and acceptance in facing life's challenges. You have all made sacrifices.

"Since March 18, you have all



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin looking at cows marked for 'korban' at Masjid Jamek Kampung Parit Zing, Bukit Gambir in Tangkak yesterday. PIC BY MOHD YUSNI ARIFFIN

complied with the Movement Control Order (MCO), including the Recovery MCO now in effect. Alhamdulillah, we have managed to control the spread of Covid-19," he said.

However, Muhyiddin noted that the country had yet to win its war on Covid-19. He said Malaysia and many other countries were yet to be free of the virus, with

Malaysia even experiencing a rise in cases of late.

"As such, we cannot be complacent. Instead, we must continue to work and break the chain of transmission by adhering to the standard operating procedures (SOP)," he said.

The prime minister also reminded those attending the *korban* festivities to adhere to the

SOP, such as not organising any *kenduri* where the *korban* is done.

The home *ziarah*, he said, should also be limited to 20 people at a time, with those in attendance advised to avoid the practice of *salam*.

"I am listing these SOP in detail as a reminder so that the celebration tomorrow (today) and the

days after is done in an orderly manner. If we are not careful, there is a high chance of Covid-19 spreading during the festivities," he said.

Muhyiddin said he also prayed that those who had missed out on the opportunity to perform the haj this year would be able to do so in the future, and that they accepted it.

"This is also a form of sacrifice that is held in high regard by Allah."

The prime minister, during a visit to the Pagoh constituency earlier yesterday, had said that Malaysia could face an even worse situation if Covid-19 cases rose rapidly.

He reminded the people to continue to adhere to the SOP, which included wearing face masks and practising social distancing to break the chain of transmission.

"Although we feel that we have managed things well so far, the cases are still there. Only a few days ago, Covid-19 cases rose again.

"They had previously gone down to single digits and then to double digits. Let's pray that it does not rise to triple or quadruple digits.

"Do we want the cases to return? I don't think the people want a return to the MCO period where people had to stay home, factories ceased operations, businesses could not continue and interstate travel was off-limits," he said.